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thread

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**thread** **P** **Pronunciation Key** (thrɛd)  
n.

- a. Fine cord of a fibrous material, such as cotton or flax, made of two or more filaments twisted together and used in needlework and the weaving of cloth.
- b. A piece of such cord.
2.
  - a. A thin strand, cord, or filament of natural or manufactured material.
  - b. Something that suggests the fineness or thinness of such a strand, cord, or filament: *a thread of smoke*.
  - c. Something that suggests the continuousness of such a strand, cord, or filament: *lost the thread of his argument*.
3. A helical or spiral ridge on a screw, nut, or bolt.
4. Computer Science.
  - a. A portion of a program that can run independently of and concurrently with other portions of the program.
  - b. A set of posts on a newsgroup, composed of an initial post about a topic and all responses to it.

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5. **threads** *Slang*. Clothes.v. **thread·ed, thread·ing, threads**v. *tr.*

- a. To pass one end of a thread through the eye of (a needle, for example).
  - b. To pass (something) through in the manner of a thread: *thread the wire through the opening.*
  - c. To pass a tape or film into or through (a device): *thread a film projector.*
  - d. To pass (a tape or film) into or through a device.
2. To connect by running a thread through; string: *thread beads.*
  3.
    - a. To make one's way cautiously through: *threading dark alleys.*
    - b. To make (one's way) cautiously through something.
  4. To occur here and there throughout; pervade: "More than 90 geologic faults thread the Los Angeles area" (Science News).
  5. To machine a thread on (a screw, nut, or bolt).

v. *intr.*

1. To make one's way cautiously: *threaded through the shoals and sandbars.*
2. To proceed by a winding course.
3. To form a thread when dropped from a spoon, as boiling sugar syrup.

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[Middle English, from Old English *thræd*. See *terə*-<sup>1</sup> in Indo-European Roots.]

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**thread'** *er n.*

Source: *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*  
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## thread

\Thread\, v. t. [imp. & p. p. Threaded; p. pr. & vb. n. Threading.] 1. To pass a thread through the eye of; as, to thread a needle.

2. To pass or pierce through as a narrow way; also, to effect or make, as one's way, through or between obstacles; to thrid.

Heavy trading ships . . . threading the Bosphorus. --Mitford.

They would not thread the gates. --Shak.

3. To form a thread, or spiral rib, on or in; as, to thread a screw or nut.

Source: Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, © 1996, 1998 MICRA, Inc.

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## thread

\Thread\ (thr[e^]d), n. [OE. threed, [thorn]red, AS. [thorn]r[=ae]d; akin to D. draad, G. draht wire, thread, OHG. dr[=a]t, Icel. [thorn]r[=a][eth]r a thread, Sw. tr[\*a]d, Dan. traad, and AS. [thorn]r[=a]wan to twist. See Throw, and cf. Third.] 1. A very small twist of flax, wool, cotton, silk, or other fibrous substance, drawn out to considerable length; a compound cord consisting of two or more single yarns doubled, or joined together, and twisted.

2. A filament, as of a flower, or of any fibrous substance, as of bark; also, a line of gold or silver.

3. The prominent part of the spiral of a screw or nut; the rib. See Screw, n., 1.

4. Fig.: Something continued in a long course or tenor; as, the thread of life, or of a discourse. --Bp. Burnet.

5. Fig.: Composition; quality; fineness. [Obs.]

A neat courtier, Of a most elegant thread. --B. Jonson.

Air thread, the fine white filaments which are seen

floating in the air in summer, the production of spiders; gossamer.

Thread and thrum, the good and bad together. [Obs.] -- Shak.

Thread cell (Zo["o]l.), a lasso cell. See under Lasso.

Thread herring (Zo["o]l.), the gizzard shad. See under Gizzard.

Thread lace, lace made of linen thread.

Thread needle, a game in which children stand in a row, joining hands, and in which the outer one, still holding his neighbor, runs between the others; -- called also thread the needle.

*Source: Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, © 1996, 1998 MICRA, Inc.*

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## thread

n 1: a fine cord of twisted fibers (of cotton or silk or wool or nylon etc.) used in sewing and weaving [syn: yarn] 2: any long object resembling a thin line; "a mere ribbon of land"; "the lighted ribbon of traffic"; "from the air the road was a gray thread"; "a thread of smoke climbed upward" [syn: ribbon] 3: the connections that link the various parts of an event or argument together; "I couldn't follow his train of thought"; "he lost the thread of his argument" [syn: train of thought] 4: the raised helical rib going around a screw [syn: screw thread] v 1: to move or cause to move in a sinuous, spiral, or circular course: the river winds through the hills. [syn: weave, wind, meander] 2: pass a thread through; "thread a needle" 3: thread on or as if on a string; "string pearls on a string" [syn: string]

*Source: WordNet ® 1.6, © 1997 Princeton University*

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## thread

1. See multithreading.
2. See threaded code.

3. topic thread.[Jargon File]

Source: *The Free On-line Dictionary of Computing*, ©  
1993-2003 Denis Howe

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**thread**

n. [Usenet, GENie, CompuServe] Common abbreviation of  
'topic thread', a more or less continuous chain of  
postings on a  
single topic. To 'follow a thread' is to read a series of  
Usenet  
postings sharing a common subject or (more correctly)  
which are  
connected by Reference headers. The better newsreaders  
can present  
news in thread order automatically. Not to be confused  
with the  
techspeak sense of 'thread', e.g. a lightweight process.

Interestingly, this is far from a neologism. The OED  
says: "That  
which connects the successive points in anything, esp. a  
narrative,  
train of thought, or the like; the sequence of events or  
ideas  
continuing throughout the whole course of anything;"  
Citations are  
given going back to 1642!

Source: *Jargon File 4.2.0*

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**thread**

thread: in CancerWEB's On-line Medical Dictionary

Source: *On-line Medical Dictionary*, © 1997-98  
*Academic Medical Publishing & CancerWEB*

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